

FOCUSING ON ENERGY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is time to focus on our energy crisis and our energy costs, but that also relates to food.

In our country, we are already seeing bare shelves of food items. You might recall years ago when Boris Yeltsin visited this country. They took him to a supermarket, and he was amazed by what was on American shelves. Now, we are moving in the direction of having shelves like in Russia.

In my home State of California, as they cut off the water supply, the Klamath Basin got zero water last year to farm crops, and in the San Joaquin Valley and part of the Sacramento Valley, zero water allocations.

As we look at conditions around the world, Russia is deciding to cut off some of the imports of fertilizer, which will make it harder to plant crops. Hungary has decided they are not going to export grain anymore this coming year. This is going to have a ripple effect through all food supplies and certainly on prices. The price of wheat is way up, maybe 100 percent—wheat futures. We are going to feel this at the stores if we are not planting our own food in this country.

We have the water to do it in California, but it is all going out in the ocean in order to support fish that no longer live there. And the salinity issue is misused.

We have to focus once again.

CALLING FOR U.S. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will consider a bill to provide both humanitarian and military aid to the people of Ukraine.

We must fortify President Zelensky and the Ukrainian people from an unprovoked attack on an independent country. We must also protect ourselves.

Putin has weaponized oil and natural gas export profits, profits that he stole from the Russian people, parking oil profits throughout the world in oligarchs.

Right now, the United States imports 22 million barrels of Russian oil every single month. This is 60 percent of the money that Putin used to leverage his invasion, and it must stop.

Our country needs long-term energy independence.

There are 211 lithium-ion battery plants in the world. Mr. Speaker, 156 are in China, and just 12 are here in the United States. We need to get tough on China, but we need to get tougher on ourselves about China.

Everyone will benefit from an America that is producing electric vehicles and one that is truly energy independent. It is time to get serious about this. American jobs and national security are on the line.

FAMILY FARMS ARE SUFFERING

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the critical issues facing my fellow farmers.

The world is on fire under President Biden and his America last agenda. We are seeing skyrocketing costs of critical inputs, such as fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer has doubled in price.

Our fuel prices have reached record highs, and President Biden's solution is to beg our enemies in Iran and Venezuela for more oil.

The supply chain crisis was never addressed, and farmers are struggling to find parts to repair equipment. Family farms are suffering, and every American is about to see a drastic increase in the price of food.

I am afraid for regular Americans. This yearlong experiment of woke government has been a disaster.

My constituents in the 15th District miss President Trump and an agenda that put America first.

NAVIGATING THE IRS

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 2022 tax filing season gets underway, I rise to draw attention to the issues that my constituents face when trying to navigate the IRS.

James from Nottingham came to my office because his 2020 return was delayed for almost a year. Lisa from Berwyn called us after she learned that a clerical error at the IRS had led the Social Security Administration to claim that she owed them a significant amount of money. And Tina from Malvern worked with my team to secure a full refund.

Stories like these are far too common. As recently as the end of last year, the agency had a backlog of over 8 million new and amended individual returns.

That is why I was proud to join with over 190 of our House colleagues in sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Yellen, urging her to provide taxpayers with relief and flexibility while the IRS addresses its backlog. These backlogs lead to delays and errors that are devastating to the families and businesses at the heart of my community and many others. It is imperative that this relief and flexibility be provided.

HELPING STARBUCKS EMPLOYEES THRIVE

(Mr. NORCROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about a company you might have heard about: Starbucks. They made the \$8 cup of coffee a little popular.

The workers there through the pandemic are now struggling to form a union. Well, Kevin Johnson, the CEO, got a 39 percent raise. Not bad. The workers took a cut.

Those profits didn't magically appear. Starbucks didn't pour their own coffee. It was the men and women who went out during the pandemic and went to work. Yet, Kevin Johnson gets a \$20 million bonus.

If Kevin is listening, he should do the right thing.

We hear the ethical sourcing that Starbucks talks about helping people thrive. Well, he needs to do it right here in America and treat his employees right.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin should do the right thing and take care of his employees.

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OIL COMPANIES SHOULD NOT PRICE GOUGE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President just announced that he will ban the importation of Russian oil. It is a tiny fraction of the oil we consume, so it shouldn't mean a big run-up in price. In fact, prices have already run up 30 percent since the invasion of Ukraine, they have already priced it in, and they are already profiting from it.

We need to become energy independent, as the President pointed out. We have to break our addiction to Big Oil. We need to be self-sufficient on renewables, but we don't need to price gouge the American people on the way there.

Last year, the oil companies reported record profits, bought back \$7 billion worth of stock, and had record dividends. This year, they say there is a \$22 billion stock buyback, bigger dividends, bigger profits. They should not be price gouging during a crisis.

I am introducing legislation for a price gouging profits tax with rebates to consumers.

Colleagues, join me in this effort. Don't let Big Oil gouge the American consumers under the guise of an international crisis.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are building a better America for the people.